

Date: April 8, 2019

To: Faculty Senate

From: Levi T. Thompson, Dean, Elizabeth Inez Kelley Professor of Chemical Engineering 177

Subject: Proposed Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Engineering and Public Policy

This is to express my support for the proposed interdisciplinary graduate program in Engineering and Public Policy at the University of Delaware. The proposed program has been developed in collaboration with the Biden School and will reside in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and be jointly administered with the Biden School.

The interdisciplinary, research-oriented doctoral program focuses on the intersection of engineering and policy at all levels, local to global, including both the policy influences on engineering decisions and applications, and the policy impacts and implications of scientific and technical decisions. The program will attract students with master's level technical backgrounds in engineering and the applied sciences who are interested in using the concepts and methods of policy analysis to understand the broader societal context of technical programs and decisions. The program requires intensive engagement of doctoral students with both engineering and policy faculty and an interest in the generation of new useable interdisciplinary knowledge that expands the boundaries of inquiry and practice.

The proposed program provides an opportunity to complement the existing related interdisciplinary initiatives, such as the Graduate Certificate in Wind: Engineering, Science and Policy, the PhD program in Energy and Environmental Policy, and the PhD program in Water Science Policy. Each of these programs are focused on a particular application. The proposed program is unique to UD and the mid-Atlantic region as the policy related coursework focuses on broadly applicable policy analysis tools and fundamental policy mechanisms.

The EPP program at University of Delaware will prepare graduates to participate in the social, political and policy-making aspects of science and technology as government officials, members of non-governmental organizations, or practicing scientists/engineers in think tanks, industry or academia filling an important niche and complementing ongoing activities.